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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT **INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 9 Oct. 1950

SUBJECT Formation of Mountain Battalions

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1. So-called Alpine or mountain battalions have been formed from personnel drawn from Yugoslav infantry units. These battalions will be autonomous, that is in case of war, they will operate independently.
2. In the early part of July 1950, the 3 Mountain Battalion, the strength of which is 500 men, was organized in Mojstrana. It bears the identification "S.P.B.-3", and is known as the "Marinko Battalion". (Miha Marinko presented the battalion standard during the formation ceremony of the battalion). The Battalion Commander is Major Konrad Pecnik, formerly a lieutenant in 13 Mountain Battalion of 2 Mountain Regiment of the Royal Yugoslav Army. All personnel of the battalion have completed special mountain training. They are all literate and are largely Slovenes and Montenegrins. Each garrison in the Gorenjsko sector contributed one company or one platoon for the formation of the mountain battalion in Mojstrana. Immediately after being formed the battalion was dispatched in full battle attire to the Karavanke Mountains and to the Austrian border region for maneuvers.
3. Reportedly, five mountain battalions have been formed to date, and in addition to the one in Mojstrana, they are located in Skofija Loka, Delnice, Debar, and Nis. According to plans, two more such battalions are to be formed during July 1950, one in Sarajevo and the other in Banja Luka.
4. According to unconfirmed reports, all these mountain battalions will be organized into a mountain corps, thus making them completely independent of the armies within the military districts in which they lie. It is rumored that Major General Perhavec, who in May 1950 was promoted to his present rank, will be appointed commander of this corps. At present Perhavec serves at General Staff Headquarters in Belgrade.

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